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Judge Waring Paid Tribute

Committee of pilgrims reads citation to Judge J. Waties Waring. Left to right: Miss Miriam Bacot, Charleston; Mr. Tom Ludwig, Greeneville, Tenn.; Mr. Aubrey Williams, Montgomery, Ala.; Judge Waring, Mrs. Waring; Mrs. Mojeska Simkins, Columbia, S. C.; Dr. H. B. Butler, Florence, S. C. Other committeemen not shown in the picture were Comdr. Frank W. Spencer, Savannah, Ga.; and the Rev. J. C. Dunbar, of the Morris St. Baptist Church, Charleston.

"If I have done anything in my small way to overpower the feelings of those who are prejudiced in this bitter and cold world, then it has been accomplished from the simple desire to speak what is right and just. It is with deep gratitude for my wife and myself that I welcome you here today."

With these words Federal District Judge J. Waties Waring greeted a band of 125 Southerners who braved the coldest weather ever recorded in South Carolina to honor the distinguished jurist at his Charleston home on Thanksgiving Sunday.

The pilgrimage was sponsored by the Southern Conference Educational Fund as a gesture of appreciation for Judge and Mrs. Waring's unceasing fight against racial discrimination despite frenzied Dixiecrat opposition, and even assault by vandals upon their home. Chief source of the bigots' ire was his decision affirming the Negro's right to vote. Pilgrims came from the Carolinas and neighboring states, and letters and telegrams from the other Southern states expressed the regards of those unable to attend.

A citation of honor presented to the judge read as follows:

"We several Southerners have felt it a thing signally deserved and highly due to address to you our appreciation of your great and good works, as a wise, just and courageous judge, in our country, and our respect of the stalwart manhood evidenced in your private as in your official life.

"We are, of course, aware that you have no more than upheld conscientiously the letter and the spirit of the laws of our land, which declare the freedom and the equality of men.

"Yet it has been seen that many another, in your place, has found it possible, before obdurate prejudices and customs, to avoid the guidance of the noblest guarantees of our Constitution. Your own faithfulness in this field, despite environmental discouragement others have bowed to, has been exemplary and heartwarming.

"We have particularly admired your understanding of our nation's intent and commitment to democracy, and of the necessity of protecting the right of suffrage, which is the essential of popular government. We particularly applaud the direction of your authority, as chief officer of your court, to the maintenance of the dignity of humanity regardless of race, creed or economic circumstance, which fortifies our esteem of our judicial system and encourages our hope in the undertaking of our land towards the true equality and amiable brotherhood of man.

"Your example is good for the soul of the South; your good deeds have lightened our conscience."

In his response Judge Waring said:

"I want to say on behalf of my wife and myself that we are deeply grateful for this pilgrimage. Our gratitude goes out to the people —the many fine and wonderful people—who make up the Southern Conference Educational Fund. The people of this fine organization are doing a great work, not only intelligent, but above all things, they are doing a brave work. The Fund is composed of men and women who are not afraid—not afraid to take positions and to face the consequences, and to fight for the things they believe in.

"This pilgrimage by people, some of whom drove all day and all night to come here, is an example—an inspiration and an incentive—to all people of good will in the South to carry on.

"This day will always be green in our minds, not because of what my wife and I have done in our own small way, nor for what our friends and supporters say about us, but rather, I say, for what our enemy and our opposition purport. I have often wished that it would be said of me what was said of Grover Cleveland. They said of Cleveland: 'We love him for the enemies he made.'"

MEDICAL STUDENTS BLAST SEGREGATION

The Plight of the Negro Doctor Is Shocking!

The following article is excerpted from a bulletin prepared by the National Committee Against Discrimination of the Association of Internes and Medical Students.

The association held its annual convention in Washington Dec. 27-30, with Aubrey Williams, president of the SCEF, as one of the featured speakers.

AIMS, until recently, published a lively, progressive journal, "The Interne". This periodical became defunct when "attacks on the association by the American Medical Association were accompanied by so much pressure on the drug firms that they discontinued all their advertising"—to quote one of AIMS national officers.

Despite widespread awareness of discrimination against the Negro in Medical Education, the actual pattern and extent of this practice is a shocking revelation even to those concerned with this problem.

Today in America there are over 25,000 Medical students enrolled in 78 class A schools. 612 of them are Negroes—less than 2½ per cent! Two of these schools (Howard and Meharry) are themselves Negro institutions and absorb 495 or 81 per cent of these Medical students.

There are but 117 Negroes in all four classes of the 76 "white" Medical Schools. However, they are not to be found in every school: they are enrolled in but 36 of these schools. Twenty-six Southern schools, in states where 10,000,000 Negroes live, are Jim Crow by law. (It is heartening to note that in one of these schools, the U. of Arkansas, two Negro students have been accepted without court action.)

The situation is no better when examined in enlightened Northern centers. Chicago, for example, has five class A institutions with a student body of over 1900—yet there are but 12 Negro students enrolled. 400,000 Negroes live in Chicago. New York state, with nine Medical Schools, produced less than 50 Negro physicians in the 25-year period from 1920-1945.

After graduation the Negro physician still faces many facets of discrimination. He must choose from among 158 internships, mostly in small Negro hospitals—in contrast to the 9,000 approved openings available to the 6000 white graduates. Similarly there are but 116 residencies available.

WEEP, HIPPOCRATES!

In North Carolina Hippocrates' surgical gown is much like a Klansman's hood.

Maltheus R. Avery, 24-year-old college student, was critically injured near Mebane, N. C., in an auto accident Dec. 1.

According to the Afro-America of Dec. 16, he was taken to Alamance General Hospital.

There it was learned he had sustained fractures of the skull, cheekbone, jawbone, leg and arm.

But Maltheus Avery was a Negro. The redness of his life's blood was secondary to the color of his skin. So Alamance shunted him on to Duke University Hospital in Durham.

Here, at this great Southern Methodist medical center, he spent 10 minutes in the emergency room. The seriousness of his condition was confirmed. But the Negro ward was full. It would not do at all to treat him on the same sheets whites would have to use later—however well laundered.

So the eminent doctors of Duke deliberated duly and reached the proper decision. They sent him on to Lincoln Hospital, a Negro institution. And there, within an hour after his arrival, Avery died! . . . died in the way thought proper by the people at Alamance, died in the manner designated by the sages at Duke.

Among his survivors are two brothers in the United States Army, Recruit Waddell Avery, Fort Jackson, S. C., and Reserve Officer Cadet Parnell Avery, Virginia State College.

The Negro physician is hampered in his attempt to acquire essential post-graduate training because of proscription of Negro membership in the local Medical Society as is practiced throughout the South, as well as strict segregation in teaching institutions.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the Negro population has a perilously small group of physicians, and current educational practices hold no prospect of alleviating this condition.

The Negro is poorer, less well-fed and housed, more crowded than the general population. He needs more health services, not less. He is entitled to these services as a human being. Furthermore it is in the interest of the general welfare that his health be safeguarded, lest it pull down that of his neighbors.

Discrimination harms not only Negroes, but the community and nation also. Without doctors, hospitals, or rudimentary knowledge of the fundamentals of safeguarding health in many areas; with few doctors and poor facilities in others, Negro infant mortality, tuberculosis and syphilis soar above national averages.

Along with improvement in medical practice in the last 50 years, there has been a substantial decline in the Negro death rate despite the fact that Negroes have not received full benefit of these medical improvements. This indicates that the Negro health will improve with environmental changes, and that further environmental improvements are necessary to alter the appalling situation which persists.

As long as the Negro remains segregated in the worst slums and most menial jobs, the provision of adequate health services is extensively hindered.

The general death rate of Negroes in 1946 was near the level reported for the whites about two decades earlier. Life expectancy of a white male is 65; of the Negro male, 57. The tuberculosis death rate is 3 times higher among Negroes. Infant mortality 55 per cent higher, maternal mortality 3 times higher.

In 1948 the Negro occupied 2.5 per cent of the total number of hospital beds in the country. This for some 15,000,000 Americans!

Madame Pandit Is Honored At SCEF Reception

A distinguished trio seen at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune.

Three of the most distinguished women of the world, Her Excellency the Ambassador of India, Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, were the honored guests on November 28 at a reception in honor of Madame Pandit given by the SCEF at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

Traditions Shattered

Traditions were shattered in the ball-room of the Ritz-Carlton when the 500 guests participated in square-dancing to the music of a hill-billy band.

Mrs. Roosevelt led the dancers in a lively Virginia Reel. Mrs. Bethune joined in the gay dancing, swinging with her partner and bowing to her "corner".

Mr. Ralph Tefferteller of Tennessee, program director of the Henry Street Settlement, called the figures for the square dancing. Cider, doughnuts and coffee were served.

Mrs. Roosevelt, introduced Madame Pandit, as one of the leading personalities at the UN, with a mind so brilliant that it was difficult to find a man willing to face her in debate.

Madame Pandit, in a brief address, said that "one of the greatest threats to modern democracy today was the idea of white supremacy." She commended the work of the SCEF and said its work "in helping to eliminate segregation is making an indispensable contribution to the cause of freedom and peace."

Presentation of Monticello Declaration

Following her address, Mr. Aubrey Williams, president of SCEF, presented Madame Pandit with an especially inscribed copy of the Monticello Declaration of Civil Rights in recognition and appreciation of her leadership in the world-wide fight for human rights.

Serving as chairman for the program was Dr. H. H. Giles, Director of the Center for Human Relations Studies of New York University.

Mrs. Fillman

Chairman of the New York Committee in charge of arrangements was Mrs. J. R. Fillman. Serving on the Committee were: Mr. William H. Butler, Mrs. Ruth Cohon, Mr. W. H. Ferry, Mrs. Martha Josephy, Mr. Frank Karelsen, Jr., Mrs. Jean Konweiser, Mrs. Robert Lehman, Mrs. Margaret Lamont, Mrs. Constance Lindau, Mrs. Elizabeth Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Meacham, Mrs. Mollie Moon, Miss Aliene Austin, Mrs. Vernon Pope. Mrs. Mildred McCoy, Mrs. Bernard Reis, Mr. William Roe, Mrs. Shirley Rolland, Mrs. Helen S. Rosenthal, Miss Elizabeth Rosenthal, Mrs. Louis S. Weiss, Mr. Jerry Weinstein.

Florida Survey

An economy based on the exploitation of the Negro and the "poor white" was blamed by a professor of Sociology for Florida's subnormal provision for the welfare of its citizens.

Dr. Jesse Walter Dees, Jr., of the University of Tampa told the Florida Academy of Arts and Sciences that their state is 19 per cent below the national average in housing, health, educational, cultural and voting opportunities and facilities.

"Neither Florida nor the entire South will be with as high social well being as the leading states of the North as long as the basis of the economy is an exploitive system of cheap Negro labor and poor 'white crackers'," Dees said.

"This is even more true of the dogma of 'separate but equal.' The dual system is expensive in duplicate and inferior institutions for both racial groups and the separate and unequal wages will continue to hold down the prosperity of the South.

"If the South does not believe in democracy and civil liberties as prescribed by the Constitution, neither will it ever be great!" Dees concluded.